

# **TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION** **AT PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCES**

**JUDGE MARILYN SHEA-STONUM**  
**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION**  
**U.S. COURTHOUSE & FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 240**  
**2 SOUTH MAIN STREET**  
**AKRON, OH 44308**

Unless the Court has otherwise specifically required in person appearances, counsel may participate in pre-trial conferences via telephone provided that the following requirements are strictly complied with:

1. That counsel contact Judge Shea-Stonum's courtroom deputy, Debbie Vinson-Milbry (330/375-5840), or Judge Shea-Stonum's law clerks (330/375-5780) by **not later than** one full business day prior to the scheduled pre-trial conference to inform the Court of their desire to appear telephonically, and
2. That counsel provide the Court with a telephone number (and direct extension, if applicable) where they can be reached by telephone for the pre-trial conference.

Unless counsel has been otherwise informed, the Court will initiate the telephone call to counsel who have properly requested telephonic appearances at pre-trial conferences.

Because multiple pre-trial conferences may be set at the same time on the Court's docket and because the Court first conducts pre-trial conferences in adversary proceedings where counsel have appeared in person, those choosing to appear by telephone may not be called until sometime after the time set for the pre-trial conference. Counsel requesting to appear by telephone are expected to remain at the telephone number provided to the Court (pursuant to requirement number two, above) until they are contacted by the Court for the pre-trial conference.

Although counsel may provide the Court with a cellular telephone number at which to be contacted, they will **not** be permitted to participate in a pre-trial conference via that cellular telephone if they are operating a motor vehicle at the time the Court places the call. In addition, if use of a cellular telephone results in static, counsel should have arranged for the ability to use a hard-wired telephone, if necessary.